

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed May 19, 2006, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks. In this amendment, claim 1 is amended, no claims are cancelled without prejudice, claims 29-37 were previously withdrawn and no claims have been added so that claims 1, 7 and 8 are currently pending. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,280,466 to Kugler et al., (Kugler). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Anticipation exists only if all of the elements of the claimed invention are present in a system or method disclosed, expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference. Therefore, if it can be shown that there is one difference between the claimed invention and what is disclosed in the single reference, there can be no anticipation.

Kugler fails to disclose a first prosthesis comprising a proximal section, a distal section and an intermediate section of the configuration claimed in amended Claim 1. Kugler fails to disclose one of the proximal or distal sections having a sealing material attached thereto that is different than graft material. Since Kugler fails to disclose or suggest this element, there can be no anticipation. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

A favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Carl J. Evens/

By: _____
Carl J. Evens
Reg. No. 33,874

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-2518
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